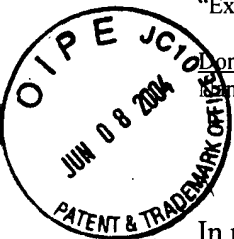


Date: June 8, 2004 Label No. EV428579435US

I hereby certify that, on the date indicated above, I deposited this paper with identified attachments and/or fee with the U.S. Postal Service and that it was addressed for delivery to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 by "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service.



Donald S. Prater
Name (Print)

Donald S. Prater
Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: BROWN et al.)	
)	
Application No.: 10/047,440)	Examiner: BOS, Steven J.
)	
Filed: January 14, 2002)	Group Art Unit: 1754
)	
Docket No.: 542286CON (3600-226-01))	Confirmation No.: 4701

For: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING NIOBIUM AND TANTALUM COMPOUNDS

SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

June 8, 2004

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached. This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted with the filing of the RCE, which is after the Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Applicants are currently obtaining English translations of the non-English documents.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. *See* 37 CFR 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear

Second Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/047,440

on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in this application and applicant determines that the cited documents(s) do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to Deposit Account 03-0060.

Respectfully submitted,



Luke A. Kilyk
Reg. No. 33,251

Atty. Docket No.: 542286CON (3600-226-01)
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Enclosures: PTO-1449, w/ 5 Documents

